

FOUNDATION POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT DE MOKAMO (FDM)

Vast palm plantations once spread across the region of Bandundu before the famous nationalization initiated by former President Mobutu. Over the years many of these palm plantations have gone out of business leaving numerous unemployed workers. The local population is without work and can not provide even the most basic necessities of life for their families. FDM is a local organization working to create jobs for those who are unemployed in the area of Mokamo. FDM planted a large plantation using an imported palm nut which bears quickly and yields ample oil and turned the lands over to 300 villagers for cultivation. Each farmer owns a section of the plantation and is responsible for upkeep and harvesting of the trees. It is difficult for these farmers to purchase basic tools necessary for cultivating and harvesting the palm trees due to years of unemployment.



FDM received a \$9,800 grant from the Ambassador's Special Self Help Fund to purchase tools for these farmers. The tools were purchased here in Kinshasa, transported to Mokamo, and then distributed to the farmers. Many of the farmers have been harvesting and selling their palm nuts to a local palm oil factory for nearly a year. These farmers have an income and slowly their lives are improving. Their children can once again attend school and their families can afford basic health care.

